

Mar. 21. 2012

MY NAME IS VIDA DITTER. I LIVE AT 404 THOMAS AVENUE SOUTH, MPLS. I LIVE IN THE BRYN MAWR NEIGHBORHOOD, WARD 7 AND MY FAMILY HAS LIVED ON AND OFF IN BRYN MAWR SINCE 1929 *+ continuously since 1947.*

THANK YOU ALL FOR THE HOURS YOU'VE SPENT WORKING ON BOTH THE REDISTRICTING PROCESS AND THE MAPS YOU'VE PREPARED. THANK YOU ESPECIALLY FOR HOW MUCH TIME AND EFFORT YOU HAVE EXPENDED INTO PROVIDING THE BEST AND FAIREST OUTCOMES TO ALL THE GROUPS PETIONING BEFORE YOU.

THANK YOU, ESPECIALLY, FOR LISTENING TO ME DURING EACH PUBLIC COMMENT AREA ASKING THAT BRYN MAWR BE PLACED INTACT INTO WARD 7. AND INDEED, UNTIL THE STATE LEGISLATIVE MAP WAS RELEASED, YOU HAD PLACED BRYN MAWR, INTACT, INTO WARD 7, FOR WHICH I THANK YOU. HOWEVER, WHEN THE STATE LEGISLATIVE MAP WAS RELEASED, THE REDISTRICTING GROUP MOVED THE WARD 7TH WARD BOUNDARY SOUTH BELOW THE NEIGHBORHOOD BOUNDARY.

THIS MOVE WILL RESULT IN BRYN MAWR HAVING TO SOLICIT SUPPORT FROM 2 CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS, 2 PARK BOARD COMMISSIONERS AND 2 SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS AS IMPLEMENTATION MOVES FORWARD ON THE TWO LAND USE PLANS APPROVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL – THE BASSETT CREEK MASTER PLAN, NOW INCORPORATED INTO THE CITY'S LATEST COMPREHENSIVE PLAN, AND THE BRYN MAWR LAND USE PLAN. BOTH THESE PLANS ARE LAND USE PLANS FOR THE EAST AND NORTHEAST SECTIONS OF BRYN MAWR. IN FACT, PHASE I OF THE BASSETT CREEK MASTER PLAN WILL HAVE SPADE TO THE GROUND THIS SPRING AS WORK STARTS ON THE BUILDING OF VAN WHITE BOULEVARD. ADVOCATING FOR THE LAND USES THAT WILL HAPPEN IN THIS PART OF OUR NEIGHBORHOOD AND WILL BENEFIT BRYN MAWR, ITS NEIGHBORS AND THE CITY IS SEVERELY HAMPERED BY THE NUMBER OF ELECTED FOLK BRYN MAWR MUST TURN TO FOR AID TO REALIZE THESE PLANS.

THE NEIGHBORHOOD CONSULTED WITH THE SECRETARY OF STATE'S OFFICE. BRYN MAWR WAS TOLD THAT AN APPEAL COULD ONLY BE MADE BY OFFICIAL GOVERNMENTAL REPRESENTATIVES TO THAT OFFICE. ON BRYN MAWR'S BEHALF, THE MINNEAPOLIS CITY CLERK CONTACTED THE SECRETARY OF STATE'S OFFICE. BRYN MAWR'S APPEAL TO HAVE THE LEGISLATIVE LINE CHANGED WAS REJECTED. INFORMALLY, BRYN MAWR WAS TOLD THAT THERE WAS NO REASON FOR THE CHANGE TO BE MADE AT STATE LEVEL, AS THE CHANGE COULD AND SHOULD BE MADE AT THE CITY LEVEL. BRYN MAWR WAS ADVISED TO COME BACK TO THIS GROUP AND REQUEST THE CHANGE. BRYN MAWR WAS TOLD THAT IT IS A SIMPLE PROCESS TO HAVE THE REDISTRICTING GROUP REDRAW THE WARD LINE AT OUR NEIGHBORHOOD'S NORTHEASTERN BOUNDARY. AND WHEN THE SMALL POPULATIONLESS DISTRICT WAS CREATED BY THIS REDRAWING, THE CITY WOULD ATTACH IT TO WARD 7 (WE ARE ASSURED THAT THIS TOO IS A SIMPLE PROCESS). MR. CARL CAN PROVIDE THE DETAILS FOR HOW THIS CAN BE DONE. SINCE THERE IS **NO** POPULATION IN THE NEW PRECINCT, THERE WOULD BE NO DIFFICULTY IN REDRAWING THIS PORTION OF THE 7TH WARD LINE – **NO** OTHER WARD LINE IS AFFECTED BY THIS CHANGE. **NO** POPULATIONS ARE BEING MOVED TO ACCOMMODATE THIS CHANGE. COMPARED TO THE INCREDIBLY HARD WORK AND HOURS YOU'VE SPENT IN ADJUSTING OTHER WARD LINES TO CREATE THE FAIREST WARDS, THE WARD 7 LINE REDRAWING IS A SIMPLE ADJUSTMENT.

SO, HERE I AM ASKING FOR THE REDISTRICTING GROUP TO CHANGE THE 7TH WARD LINE TO INCLUDE BRYN MAWR IN ITS ENTIRETY. THE SECRETARY OF STATE'S OFFICE WAS MOST KIND IN PROVIDING AN EXPLANATION FOR WHY BRYN MAWR'S APPEAL COULD BE REALIZED AT THE CITY LEVEL. I HOPE THAT THIS GROUP WILL ACCEDE TO THIS APPEAL AND REDRAW THE 7TH WARD BOUNDARY AT BRYN MAWR'S NORTHEASTERN BOUNDARY.

FOR THE REDISTRICTING GROUP, THIS WOULD BE A MINOR ADJUSTMENT AS THERE IS NO POPULATION IN THE NEWLY CREATED PRECINCT. BUT, FOR BRYN MAWR IT WOULD MEAN THAT WE WOULD ONLY NEED TO WORK WITH ONE COUNCIL MEMBER, ONE PARK COMMISSIONER AND ONE SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER AS WE ADVOCATE AND MOVE TOWARDS IMPLEMENTATION OF THE TWO PLANS AFFECTING THAT SECTION OF OUR NEIGHBORHOOD.

THANK YOU

Vida y Ditter
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